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in print, and few of those he has gleaned from the manuscripts at Chevening and Holland House will be of much service to students of history.

Both of the authors are careless and inconsistent in their citations to authorities. References appear, for example, to "Pitt Papers" (pp. 234, 235), "Chatham Papers" (pp. 21, 38, 232), and "Chatham Correspondence" (p. 23), with no indication of page or bundle. We are referred to "Stanhope Papers", "Chevening Papers", and "Chevening MSS.", with nothing to indicate whether they are one and the same. There is one citation to "Rutland MSS.", with nothing to indicate the volume, page, or manner of publication of that collection of papers (the letter cited is in the printed calendar). There are instances also of carelessness or errors both in the use of language and the statement of fact. For example, Pitt did not "emphatically decline" (p. 53) to be associated with Shelburne in attacking North's party in the early months of 1783, and the use of the single word "Chancellor" to indicate the Chancellor of the Exchequer is questionable to say the least.

WILLIAM THOMAS LAPRADE.

Le Congrès de Rastatt, 11 Juin 1798-28 Avril 1799. Correspondance et Documents publiés pour la Société d'Histoire Contemporaine par MM. P. MONTARLOT et L. PINGAUD. Tome III. (Paris: Alphonse Picard et Fils. 1913. Pp. 419.)

WITH thirty-seven Debry and thirty-two Roberjot letters, dating from the outbreak of war with Austria to the assassinations (April 28, 1799), this volume completes a total of three hundred such items, covering the 322 days of residence of Debry and Roberjot at the congress (vols. I. and II., reviewed XVIII. 398, 624). The ninety-eight letters from Roberjot to Talleyrand reveal a faithful, modest diplomat who was the working member of the commission (see III. 150), and are the main contribution of these volumes. The 178 Debry letters constantly disclose the politician in the diplomat's guise, with his wearisome drivel about serving his country; with his know-it-all budgets of gossip diplomatic, punctuated with observations drawn from his crude, sleek self-assurance; and with his growing solicitude for his political future and even his personal safety (III. 147-149). The correspondence in this volume covers a period of waiting that was possibly as malign as watchful, as the letters do not quite conceal; and the commissioners themselves must share with the Directory the responsibility for such unprotected pursuit of dangerous business on the edge of the war zone through more than two months. It is small wonder that, when the Austrians arrived with orders to expel them, the matter came to a bloody issue.

With regard to the crime, this volume contains seventy-seven items, mostly Debry papers, newly published but trivial in value. The really important items are a few translations of documents published in the

well-known German works of Vivenot, Hüffer, Obser, and Criste, due care being taken to select those which shall contribute to "cette longue justification de Jean Debry", as the editors naïvely describe their work (III. 380). These are only a few of the eighty-two similar items calendared in Freiherr von Helfert's *Zur Lösung der Rastatter Gesandtenmord-Frage* (Stuttgart, 1900, pp. 110-116), one of the German works not cited by the editors. Granted the apparent guilt of the Szekler husars (the Magyar Rough Riders), which was substantially conceded by Thugut and the Archduke Charles (III. 202-212), and the apparent location of responsibility for the military orders in question which is indicated by the archduke, the accusations against the French émigrés, the Directors, and Debry still remain to be disproved, not merely denied. Görger, the brigade commander of the Szeklers, who is in the archduke's list of the culpable, was an émigré, other émigrés were in the fatal neighborhood, and other reasons for suspicion were not lacking. The later despatches between the Directors and their commissioners at Rastatt have a tone that is perhaps peculiar, perhaps unpleasant. This "something queer" is still more noticeable in the treatment of Debry and of the whole affair by the Directors, including Debry's own intimate correspondents, Merlin and Treilhard; and after the *coup d'état* of 30 Prairial, the new Directors, controlled by Sieyès, another intimate correspondent of Debry, treat the affair with cold neglect. Still more pointed was the refusal of Bonaparte to unravel the mystery and his promptitude in closing Debry's mouth, for directly after the treaty of Lunéville, which Debry denounced because it required no reparation for the crime, the troublesome survivor was banished from the tribunate to the harmless silence of the prefecture of the Doubs. The editors have sought by the publication of these papers to do justice to the memory of their hero; it might have been kinder to have burned the papers and allow their hero to be forgotten, than to have revealed him as a hero of melodrama; and, withal, they have not disproved the suspicions which curiously attach to Debry, whose efforts, first to profit politically as the hero of wounds, variously numbered from thirteen to forty, too obviously more damaging to his clothes than to his person, and later to clear himself from suspicion of complicity, border on the ludicrous until they become merely senile.

The net result is three more volumes, with an index, on the Rastatt Congress, and no diminution in the density of the haze about the question. The very suspicions that the volumes seek to allay receive new life, when probable French innocence can array so little proof for its defense. The proof of Austrian guilt still falls just short of being conclusive, because of that possibility of French intrigue.

GEORGE MATTHEW DUTCHER.